Public Notice Related to Changes to Rates Paid by the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals for Services Delivered by Private Developmental Disability Organizations

November 23, 2011

The Rhode Island Department of Human Services is filing an amendment to its Global Consumer Choice Section 1115 waiver on behalf of the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) to change the rates paid to Private Developmental Disability Organizations (DDOs) effective with dates of service beginning January 1, 2012.

BHDDH has examined the expenditures made to private DD agencies for services in the July 1 – September 30, 2011 time period as compared to what the agencies were authorized to provide. BHDDH had built in an assumption that some portion of the total authorizations may not get utilized. The claims data showed that fewer services were utilized than were budgeted.

As such, effective with dates of service beginning January 1, 2012, BHDDH will be able to increase the rates paid per unit of service, and thus, increase the authorizations per participant while maintaining the same expected level of services that had been authorized in the first and second quarters of the State Fiscal Year (SFY).

There will be both an across-the-board rate increase as well as additional targeted rate increases for services that continue to be a high priority for BHDDH:

- All services will receive an increase that is attributable to increasing the assumed hourly wage paid to staff delivering the service. The wage increase is 3.0% for all staff except nursing/other professionals which is a 2.1% increase.
- The per trip transportation rates will increase 29% (standard rate) and 19% (higher support needs individuals) from the October 1 rate. The standard rate will increase from \$6.82 per trip to \$8.81 per trip. The enhanced rate will increase from \$11.36 to \$13.48 per trip. The new rates are also higher than the rates that were set for the First Quarter period (\$7.21 and \$12.33, respectively).
- Support services within the participant's own home will increase in an effort to support individuals in the most integrated setting. The rate for community-based supports will increase 18% from the October 1 rate, from \$4.88 per 15 minutes to \$5.74 per 15 minutes. The new rate is also higher than the rate that was set for the First Quarter period (\$5.46 per 15 minutes).
- In an effort to incentive supported employment, this rate will increase 11% from the October 1 rate (from \$5.41 to \$5.98 per 15 minute increment). The new rate is almost the same as the rate set for the First Quarter period (\$6.02).

To encourage fiscal intermediaries to assist participants to self-direct services, the January 1 rates for FI services (Support Facilitation) will increase between 17% and 19% from the October 1 rates (varies based on support level). The new annual amounts paid to the fiscal intermediaries will be slightly higher than what they were paid in SFY 2011. For the majority of individuals who self-direct services, the rate paid to fiscal intermediaries in SFY 2011 was \$1,500 per year. Effective January 1, this will increase to \$1,542 per year.

In addition to the rate changes above, two new rates will be established effective January 1, 2012:

- For participants who choose to self-direct most services but choose to utilize an agency for day program services only, the day program agency may bill for Support Coordination services at a rate of \$48.91 per month. When authorized, the service may be billed using HCPCS T2022 with no modifier attached.
- A new daily respite rate will be set at \$165.96. This rate is equivalent to 9 hours of respite that would be billed at the standard Respite rate of \$4.61 per 15 minutes that will be in place effective January 1, 2012. Providers are instructed to bill 1 unit of HCPCS S9125 when per diem respite is utilized. This rate will be in place for both emergency and non-emergency per diem respite. The regular Respite rate of \$4.61 per 15 minutes will be capped at 36 units (9 hours) per day.

The rates and rate models set forth in this public notice are subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. The BHDDH will continue to monitor utilization against authorized services in an effort to conform to the legislative appropriation. As such, the BHDDH is committed to adjusting rates in order to ensure that the total appropriation is used in SFY 2012.

A copy of the draft waiver amendment can be requested from Monica Pacheco at mpacheco@bhddh.ri.gov or at 462-1320. It will also be available on the BHDDH website at www.bhddh.ri.gov on Tuesday, November 29, 2011. Written comments should be addressed to Monica Pacheco and must be received no later than December 15, 2011 at 4:00 pm. Comments received will be posted to the BHDDH website for viewing.